

# EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

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TITLE : MANUFACTURE OF ELECTROPHOTOGRAPHIC TONER

ABSTRACT : PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a manufacturing method of the toner having the grain size distribution of grains sufficiently sharp for use as the toner and excellent lot reproducibility of the average grain size.

SOLUTION: A stirring device has a rotary shaft fitted with main stirring blades and auxiliary stirring blades in a stirring tank. The terminals of the main stirring blades are separated from the inner wall side face of the stirring tank to generate a rising liquid flow at the time of stirring, and the auxiliary stirring blades have scrapers inclined vertically or in the raking direction as rotated on the inner wall side of the stirring tank and paddles connected to the scrapers and inclined vertically or in the depressing direction as rotated. An aqueous medium is added and mixed into the organic solvent solution of a mixture constituted of a colorant and a binding resin made of a water- nonsoluble resin dispersible in water as the principal constituent for phase inversion and emulsification to form colored resin fine grains, then the organic solvent is removed, and the spherical colored resin fine grains dispersed in the aqueous medium are taken out as dry powder.

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